**Africa RISING Phase 2**

**Nutrition gaps:** gaps identified in Africa RISING sites from various baseline studies include: limited crop and livestock diversification farm systems, limited availability and access to nutritious foods, particularly animal source foods, lack of technical capacity in nutrition within government extension systems, inadequate nutrition knowledge and awareness, inadequate consumption and care feeding practices, limited opportunities in nutrition sensitive value chains, limited post -harvest technologies, increased post -harvest losses, soil management/fertility issues, aflatoxin contamination and food safety concerns.

**Nutrition goals:** Improve the food security and diet diversity of households.

**Specific objectives:**

* Increase production of diversified crops/livestock to improve access and availability
* Increase consumption of diversified diets amongst women and children
* Improve nutrition knowledge and care practices through effective behaviour change strategies
* Build capacity at the individual and institutional levels for research on nutrition, nutrition –agriculture linkages, post- harvest , nutrition sensitive soil management and value addition
* Expand nutrition sensitive value chains and market linkages for improved nutrition
* Improve post- harvest technologies for improved nutrition
* Identify agriculture impact pathways to nutrition(income/markets, production diversification, nutrition education/behaviour change, women empowerment

**Target groups:** women (pregnant, lactating, women of child bearing age) and children under five (first 1000 days)

**Nutrition approaches: in the next phase, the nutrition team propose the following nutrition approaches:**

1. **Develop a nutrition framework and action plan**: develop a nutrition action plan harmonizing nutrition goals, objectives, activities, indicators across sites
2. Assessment: synthesize nutrition data and draft publications and briefs
3. **Integrated Crop and livestock diversification** for nutrition
   1. Promote consumption of nutritious fruits, vegetables and legumes through crop diversification
   2. Promote consumption of animal source foods through livestock diversification
   3. Promote diversity for nutrition
4. Research on soil management: evaluating the effect of various fertilizer blends on nutritional quality of grain crops and their residues for livestock
5. Nutrition education , training, behaviour change, policy advocacy and women empowerment:
   1. Scale out nutrition education and training targeting institutions (agriculture extension, health, innovation platforms, private sector, education etc.
   2. Explore partnerships to scale out nutrition trainings at the community level)
   3. Promote innovative Behaviour Change Strategies (BCC) to improve consumption and care feeding practices amongst target farmers
   4. Behaviour change strategies targeting high income farmers
   5. Implement gender transformative approaches for improved nutrition outcomes
6. Nutrition sensitive value chains
   1. Test pilot activities in nutrition sensitive value chain: focus on processing, packaging of fruits, vegetables, dairy foods
7. Post –harvest and product development: conduct product development research focused on nutrient dense complementary foods